

The American Observer

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A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 18

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 27, 1947

Making Excuses

By Walter E. Myer

A GOOD many people seem to think that it doesn't make much difference how often they fail to do their work well or to perform their duties if they always have a good excuse for their failures. The excuse maker, the explainer, is found in every classroom, in every business office.

If a lesson is unprepared the student may explain that he didn't understand the assignment. If he is late to class he blames it on the alarm clock. If he has been absent he chooses from a long list of possible explanations; for example, that he had a cold, or that there was illness in the family. If a man is late in getting to the factory or office, he may say that he couldn't get a taxi, the bus was late, he had a flat tire or traffic was heavier than usual. If he misses an appointment he may explain that company came just as he was leaving home.

A person who often finds it necessary to make excuses changes them from one occasion to another. He invents new ones from time to time. He may become quite skilled in explaining his shortcomings and his errors. His alibis may sound reasonable. They frequently enable him to "get by."

It is a fact, of course, that explanations are sometimes justified and even necessary. No one can be on the job all the time. Everyone will make mistakes at times. Anyone may make an appointment or a promise and may find out later that he cannot do what he thought he would. Any student may fail at a lesson or an assignment. In such a case an honest explanation may be given.

Excuses are justified if there aren't too many of them. It is the *excuse habit* which should be avoided. An alibi, even a good one, is not a substitute for the performance of duty. You may tell very convincingly why you did not do what was expected of you, but that does not put you where you would have been if you had not failed. That is not the way to

win the confidence of teachers, employers or friends. That is not the way to make a good record, or to acquire a reputation for reliability.

It has been said that "He who is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else." This may be a slight exaggeration but there is a great deal of truth in it. One should make every effort to keep his word, to do his work well and to perform his duties at all times. Then if he occasionally falls short of the mark he can explain his situation without losing self-respect or the confidence and respect of his friends.

The successful man or woman knows that it is important to get things done and to get them done in spite of difficulties. Problems will be encountered by anyone who is doing a worthwhile job. Obstacles will lie along the path wherever one may go, but it is always better to overcome them than to parade them as excuses for failure.



Walter E. Myer

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 27, 1947



Cost of Government

President and Congress Disagree About the Extent to Which Federal Expenses Can and Should Be Reduced

IS the federal government spending a great deal more money than it needs to? If so, what expenses should be cut? How much, if any, should taxes be lowered?

These questions have been widely discussed ever since the November congressional elections, for the victorious Republicans promised that they would sharply reduce government expenses and taxes. President Truman, however, does not believe that national spending can be cut by a very large amount, and he is opposed to any decrease in taxes at the present time.

This issue is of great importance to every family in the land for three reasons:

(1) If the government reduces its spending too much, thereby eliminating vital services which it now performs, large groups of people may be seriously hurt—may see their standards of living drop.

(2) If the government spends larger sums of money than it needs to, American taxpayers and business enterprises will be weighed down by taxes, and many of them will suffer greatly as a result.

(3) If the government continues to spend more money than it collects in taxes, you of the younger generation may be burdened throughout your lifetime with a great national debt.

Such are the stakes involved in the present dispute over government

spending and taxes. The President's ideas on the subject are contained in his budget report which he turned over to Congress earlier this month.

His report deals with the government's 1948 bookkeeping or "fiscal" year, which begins July 1, 1947, and ends June 30 of the following year. The government has already made its financial plans for the 12-month period beginning last July and ending next June. This period is known as the 1947 fiscal year. Government bookkeeping years always run from July 1 to the following June 30.

In order to understand the controversy over whether or not the government should cut down its expenses and reduce taxes, we need to know how much is being spent by the various federal agencies at the present time, and where the money is going. We shall, in most cases, give figures in round numbers.

Altogether, the government is spending slightly more than 41½ billion dollars during the 1947 bookkeeping year. To pay these expenses, it is collecting from the people in taxes somewhat more than 39½ billion dollars. It is borrowing approximately 2 billions, thus adding to the national debt, which is now in the neighborhood of 265 billions.

Military expenses are by far the biggest financial burden of the gov-

(Concluded on page 2)

Canadians Set National Goal

Without Breaking British Ties
They Establish Citizenship for Nation

AN event recently occurred in Canada which did not receive much attention in the United States but which stirred great interest among our northern neighbors. For the first time in their history, the people of that land became full-fledged Canadian citizens.

Previously, the 12,000,000 people living in Canada were British subjects. They had been ever since their country first became a member of the British Empire. Even though Canada actually gained her independence many years ago, her people permitted themselves to be called British subjects until this month.

Canada, of course, is still a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and her recent action is not expected to weaken her ties with England. At the same time, this step is a further indication of her determination to be considered a country with an individual personality as well as a member of the British Commonwealth.

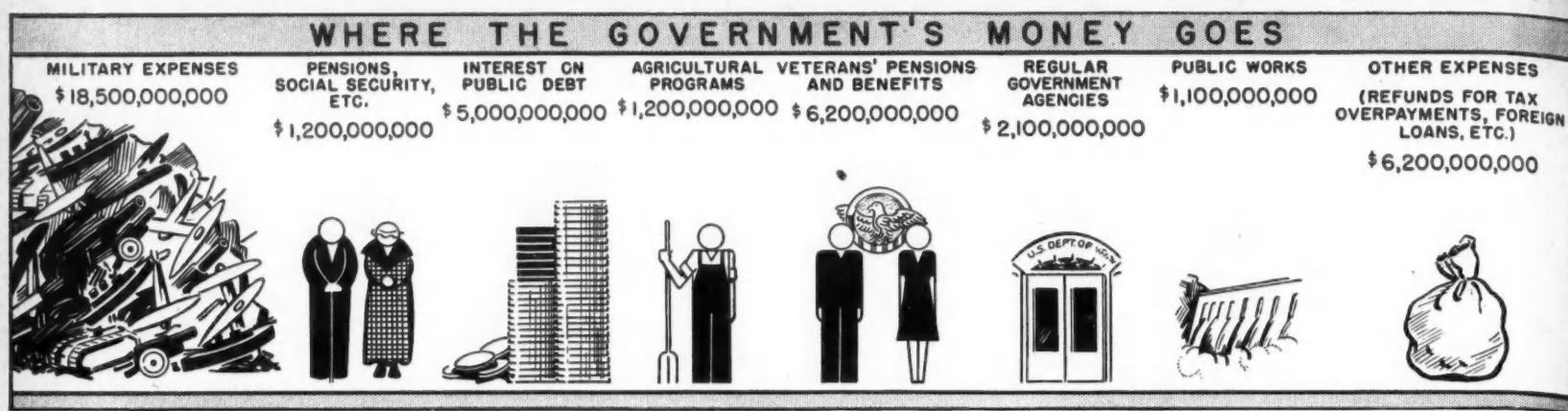
Since Canada is not ordinarily involved in foreign disputes, news about that country is seldom of a spectacular nature. For this reason, the fact has not been sufficiently impressed on people of other lands that Canada is rapidly becoming one of the more important nations of the world. She is not yet in the same class with the United States, Russia, and Britain, but she is a leader among the countries which are just below the major powers.

For a long time, Canada was an outstanding agricultural land. While she was making considerable factory and mining progress before World War II, it was that conflict which quickly elevated her to a position of

(Concluded on page 6)



W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada



How the government is spending its money during the bookkeeping year which began last July 1 and ends next June 30

CHART BY JOHNSON

Federal Costs

(Concluded from page 1)

ernment today. They amount this year to 18½ billion dollars. President Truman has recommended that these costs be reduced to 11¼ billions, a cut of a little more than 7 billion dollars.

Some members of Congress will try to reduce military costs to 10 billions, although most political observers believe that they will fail in their attempt. Unless rapid progress is made by the UN in dealing with disarmament and atomic control, the majority in Congress are expected to support the President's program of military spending. Nevertheless, there may be quite a debate on this issue.

Veterans are now costing the government about 6¼ billion dollars a year. This expense includes pensions, educational aid, health services, and other benefits. In view of laws already in operation, veterans' expenses will automatically increase to nearly 7½ billions next year. So this government expense, instead of being less, will be considerably more next year.

Interest Payments

Interest on the public debt now amounts to 5 billion dollars. The government is paying interest at about 2 per cent on the bonds it has sold to the American people. Until the national debt is reduced, in other words, until the government can buy back many billions of dollars' worth of the bonds it has sold, interest payments cannot be reduced very much. This government expense will still add up to 5 billion dollars next year.

Social security payments, such as old-age and unemployment insurance, now amount to nearly 1¼ billion dollars. There is no prospect for a reduction here, since more people every year are becoming eligible for benefits under the government's social insurance program. President Truman estimates that spending for this purpose will increase to 1¾ billions next year.

Agricultural assistance is costing the government nearly 1¼ billion dollars this bookkeeping year. The government undertakes to insure farmers against too great a fall in the prices of their products. If the price of any farm crop drops below a specified figure, money is paid out of the Treasury to the producers of this crop.

While most agricultural prices are high at the present time, there are some farmers whose products are below the guaranteed level. Moreover, there are indications that farm prices in general may decline during the coming year.

These agricultural payments might be discontinued, but the majority of

Republican leaders are not saying anything about them at this time. The Republicans are particularly strong in the farming regions, and thus political writers predict that they will continue the Democratic program of guaranteeing farm prices.

If so, President Truman estimates that this program will cost nearly 1½ billion dollars next year. The expense might be considerably more if farm prices should drop very much.

Public works are now costing the government \$1,100,000,000 a year. These include housing, river and harbor development, flood control, and highway building. It is generally agreed that the only one of these items that might be cut down is housing, since a rock-bottom minimum is being spent for the other purposes.

This year, the government is spending slightly more than half a billion dollars in the effort to speed up the nation's home-building program. President Truman contends that the same amount should be provided next year. He says that so long as we have housing congestion and slums, the nation will pay the price in terms of increased crime, broken homes, and in other ways.

Many members of Congress feel that the private building industry will solve our housing problems more quickly if the government steps clear out of the picture. They favor ending most governmental spending in this field.

On the other hand, Senator Robert Taft, an outstanding Republican leader in Congress, favors an extensive federal housing program. If he and President Truman have their way, expenses for this purpose will not be reduced much, if any, next year. As a matter of fact, many Americans feel that a great deal more money than either Truman or Taft is asking for should be spent every year until all Americans have the proper kinds of homes.

International loans being made by our government this year amount to over 4 billion dollars. Our country is helping to restore stability in war-torn lands.

Those who oppose the reduction of such spending argue that "when a foreign nation is impoverished and does not have help, the people are more likely to turn to dangerous leaders and systems of government. It is better to spend a few billion dollars a year to relieve suffering and combat dangerous movements abroad than it is to let them grow powerful and promote wars which cost us in the hundreds of billions of dollars, to say nothing of the tragic loss of life."

Many members of Congress on the other hand, contend that the need for foreign assistance will not be so great next year as it has been in the period since the end of the war. They say that no more than 1½ billion dollars should be spent on foreign loans and

other assistance. President Truman asks the sum of 3½ billions for this purpose, or one-half billion less than is being spent during the present year.

Tax refunds are made by the government every year. It often happens that a man or a corporation pays more in taxes than he is required to by law, and when this fact is established, the government refunds the excess payments. The refunds amount this year to more than 1¾ billion dollars, and a similar sum will have to be paid again next year.

Regular government agencies are now costing \$2,300,000,000 a year to operate (the figure for this item on the chart is incorrect). These agencies include Congress and the various executive departments, such as State, Treasury, Labor, Commerce, and so on. There are slightly more than two million people in the regular service of the government.

Truman's Position

President Truman feels that expenses for these agencies can be cut only 200 million dollars without seriously affecting their operations. Certain members of Congress believe that much more than this amount can be lopped off by reducing waste in the government and abolishing needless activities.

Such are the big items of government expense, together with the conflicting points of view over how much these costs can and should be reduced. President Truman takes the position that federal spending should be cut only 4 billion dollars next year, bringing the total down from 41½ to 37½ billion dollars. Any further reduction, he contends, would cripple or eliminate vital government services.

Moreover, the President thinks that any money which the government may have left over from its tax collections should be used to start paying off the national debt. He does not favor the lowering of taxes at a time when the nation owes such a huge sum of money.

Many members of Congress, on the other hand, feel that it will be possible and desirable to reduce government expenses to a much lower figure than that proposed by President Truman. Some go so far as to say that these costs can be cut down to 30 billion dollars without injuring the nation.

These lawmakers also disagree with the President over the question of lowering taxes. They argue that American industry may not continue to operate at its present high level unless the tax burden on individuals and businesses is lightened.

The issues involved in this controversy must be decided before next July 1, since the government's new bookkeeping year begins at that time.

SMILES

Slogan in window of a delicatessen store: "Our Best Is None Too Good."

★ ★ ★

He: "I haven't slept for days."
She: "Insomnia?"
He: "No, I sleep at night."

★ ★ ★

Man instructor to new worker: "I'm putting this rivet in the correct position. When I nod my head, hit it hard with your hammer."

That is all he remembered until he woke up in a hospital.



TOBIN IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

A man boarded a bus, handed the driver a five dollar bill, and said, "I'm awfully sorry I don't have a nickel."

"Don't worry," the driver smilingly assured him, "in two minutes you'll have 99."

★ ★ ★

Mother: "Why did you spank Junior just now? Has he done anything?"

Father: "No, but he gets his report card tomorrow and I'll be out of town then."

★ ★ ★

The director of the zoo was away on a short vacation when he received the following note from the chief assistant.

"Everything all right except the chimpanzee seems to be pining away for a companion. What shall we do until you return?"

★ ★ ★

"The first act of the play was good."
"What about the second?"
"I couldn't wait long enough to see it."

"Why not?"

"Well, the program said the next act takes place four hours later."

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Who Is Kilroy?" New York Times Magazine.

Who is the mysterious and much-traveled Kilroy? There are any number of stories about him. A New England war worker named James J. Kilroy claims that he is responsible for the endless chain of "Kilroy was here" inscriptions. As he tells it, he started writing these words on ships and tanks to prove that he had inspected them. Other people took up the custom and a legend was born.

Another account has it that Kilroy was an Albany steeplejack who liked to write his name on the towers, poles, and steeples where he had worked. Still another explanation makes Kilroy an American soldier who was fatally wounded on Guadalcanal. This version tells how Kilroy died saying to a friend, "I'll be with you wherever you go." Then the friend began writing



NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

ing Kilroy's name wherever he went. Kilroy has also been identified as an RAF flier who crashed in occupied Europe just after Dunkirk. He is said to have left his name with the underground workers who rescued him. To them, the words "Kilroy was here" became a symbol that liberation was coming. Finally, there is one tale which makes Kilroy a frog. This Kilroy was a pet of American fliers in the Philippines. A legend grew up around him because he could jump farther and faster than any other racing frog.

"A Divorce Every Minute!" by Bertram Vogel, Redbook.

Fifty years ago, one marriage out of 16 ended in divorce. Twenty-five years ago there was one divorce for every eight marriages. Now the ratio is one in three. In 1945 there were 502,000 divorces in the United States—approximately one divorce for every minute of every day of the year!

These figures mean personal unhappiness for tremendous numbers of people. They also mean a serious national problem, for a high divorce rate causes unstable homes, badly reared children, and widespread juvenile delinquency.

What can be done to stem the mounting tide of divorces? Some say our laws should be changed to make divorce more difficult. This might lessen the number of broken marriages, but it would not solve the problem. The conflicts which wreck home life would continue.

The only way to combat divorce is to give American young people a better understanding of what marriage means. If a marriage is to be successful, there must be a solid foundation of common interests. Too many people

marry without finding out whether they have similar ideals and like to do the same things.

Furthermore, both partners must be grown up emotionally. They must not marry merely for protection, support, or pampering. Successful marriages bring the highest form of happiness, but only those who are ready to shoulder responsibilities in adult fashion can hope to achieve such happiness. Young people should look upon marriage very seriously, should study the common causes of success or failure, and be determined to acquire the qualities of personality and character which will insure them, when the time comes, of a happy married life.

"Conscientious Objectors," editorial, New York Herald Tribune.

A special board headed by former Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts is now examining appeals from some 11,000 violators of the Selective Service Act. These men refused to aid the war effort because of their religious or moral principles. As a result, they have been deprived of their civil rights, including the right to vote and to hold public office. Now they are asking for pardons which will restore their rights.

The board will probably recommend pardons for most of the men and it is highly desirable that pardons should be granted. After all, our conscientious objectors have already been punished. Many have served prison terms. Those not punished in this way have been subjected to other stiff penalties. As President Truman said when he established the board, "Freedom of conscience is basic in our American tradition of individual liberty." These men should not suffer further for their convictions.

"The Budget: It's for War, Past and Future," by I. F. Stone, PM.

President Truman's budget plan for the nation sets aside more than 11 billion dollars for national defense—more than the Army and Navy spent in the peak year of World War I. In addition, the President wants to allot nearly 700 million dollars for atomic energy research.

What a contrast to the amounts earmarked for war against the great scourges of mankind! The President's budget proposals suggest an allocation of only 17 million dollars for the



ACME
A LAUNDERETTE, where housewives pay 25 cents for a tubful, is typical of small businesses established by veterans. The United States Department of Commerce publishes bulletins, available to veterans and others, telling how to set up a business, and giving suggestions to those who already have small establishments.

Public Health Service. No special research project on tuberculosis is mentioned.

The budget gives the National Cancer Institute \$7,000,000 to finance its study projects. Research on mental health problems gets only \$78,950. About \$300,000 is provided for investigations of virus diseases and \$200,000 for other medical investigations.

It is exciting to think of what a billion dollars could do if invested in medical research, and it is sad to compare these meager research items with the vast allowances given to the Army and Navy for their work.

"Giving Industry the Answers," by Rowland Evans, Jr., Washington Star.

A veteran wants to start a bakery but doesn't know just how to go about it. A manufacturer finds himself with surplus products on his hands; he wonders whether he might sell them abroad. Who can solve their problems?

More than likely, the answer is the Commerce Department. This federal agency makes a specialty of collecting business information and passing it on to those who need it.

Department officials in Washington or in one of the 77 Commerce field offices throughout the country will give the veteran a booklet telling him



AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE is seriously endangered by the present high divorce rate

just how to open his bakery shop and run it successfully. They can give the manufacturer complete information on the best foreign markets for his product.

The Commerce Department has access to countless facts on industry and trade which the average person cannot easily acquire. Besides this information, it is equipped to give a good deal of business advice. It can tell the beginner how to avoid mistakes. It points out, for instance, that a grocery store should not be placed next to a parking lot—housewives don't like to walk across driveways when doing their shopping. There are numerous other types of counsel which the United States Department of Commerce makes available to all Americans for the asking. Many businessmen have profited a good deal from these services.

"Puerto Ricans Swarm North," by Dorothy Doan, Washington Post.

Of Puerto Rico's less than two million people, nearly 400,000 are estimated to have migrated to the United States since the war. Some 300,000 are living in New York City alone—more than live in their island homeland's largest city.

It is easy to understand why so many Puerto Ricans want to come to this country. Puerto Rico itself is overpopulated and poverty-stricken. Even the low wages and poor living conditions most Puerto Ricans encounter when they come here seem good by contrast.

But government authorities are beginning to worry about the influx of islanders. These people bring serious social problems with them. They swarm into already overcrowded slums, increasing the need for new housing and health facilities. They are often out of jobs and require assistance.

At least one of the U. S. Occupation Army's jobs in Japan is now finished. Our soldiers there had to bring Japanese prisoners held on various Pacific islands back to the Japanese nation. Some 922,570 Japanese have been brought back to their homes from Hawaii, the Philippines, Korea, the Marshall Islands, and other Pacific bases.

The Story of the Week

History on Wheels

If you want to see the original copies of such documents as the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Gettysburg address, you may be able to do it right in your own home town. A special train will start from Washington in March or April, bringing these and other historic documents to every state in the country.

As the train enters each state, an additional car will be attached to it. Here the visitor may see the important documents in the history of his state. Everyone will be invited to inspect the national "history on wheels" exhibit, and copies of many of the documents will be available.

For information on this train's schedule, write to William A. Coblenz, Assistant Director of Public Information, Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.

New Radio Program

The Columbia Broadcasting System is providing a program entitled "One World Flight," directed by Norman Corwin, in order to acquaint listeners with people the world over, with their problems and their ideas.

Mr. Corwin went around the world visiting many nations. He talked



NORMAN CORWIN, noted radio writer, tells of his 'round-the-world trip in "One World Flight." The program is heard each Tuesday evening over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

with people of all classes—government officials, leaders of thought, businessmen, workers, men and women that he found in factories, on farms, or on the streets.

These conversations were recorded. Phonograph records were made, and these are used in the broadcasts.

One who listens to these broadcasts will hear the actual conversations, will hear people the world over talking about their personal problems, about world issues, about the prospects for peace. This dramatic and highly interesting program should contribute greatly to an understanding of the world in which we live.

The "One World" program is broadcast on Tuesday evenings over the Columbia Broadcasting System network. Check the time in your local newspaper.

Merger of Armed Forces

Congress is studying the plan for the unification of the armed forces which has been agreed upon by the



CONGRESSMEN inspect the 1948 budget. Although it was the smallest a President has sent to Congress in six years, the budget filled 1,626 pages (fine type) and weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

War and Navy departments and which was made public by President Truman a week and a half ago. A number of congressional leaders have expressed approval of it and it is expected that the Senate and House of Representatives will take action soon on the proposal.

This plan provides for three separate departments, one for the Army, one for the Navy and a third for the Air Force. Each of the departments will be headed by a secretary. The three secretaries will not be members of President Truman's cabinet.

In addition to these secretaries there will be a Secretary of National Defense who will definitely have a place in the cabinet. He will have overall charge of the departments and will have power to coordinate the armed services and to decide on the general policies and programs which shall be followed.

Table Tennis Tournament

Table tennis, popularly known as ping pong, is a full-fledged international sport again. American experts will soon be on their way to Europe to play exhibition games and to compete in the first postwar world championship tournament at Paris.

Although the war put a stop to international table tennis contests for a few years, it actually increased the popularity of the game in this country. Wherever soldiers gathered for recreation, you could usually find one or more ping pong tables in use.

Table tennis is an active, exciting game with almost universal appeal. It does not require elaborate equipment and the rules are easy to learn. Amateurs can have a good time at it without attempting to be skillful. For the expert, table tennis is a stiff challenge to speed, skill, and ingenuity. One can learn as great a variety of strokes in this game as in regular tennis.

United Foreign Policy

The American people can congratulate themselves on having learned how to work together in dealing with other countries. For some time now, members of our two major parties have been united on the big questions of foreign policy.

the Atlantic. If approved by the individual governments, the plans will be put into operation between now and July 1.

The patrol will consist of 13 ships stationed along the chief air and sea routes between Europe and America. Each country taking part will maintain a certain number of the vessels. Because the United States flies more than half the transatlantic planes, we will furnish the most ships. Great Britain, France, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Norway, and Sweden are the other nations involved.

The patrol has three important duties. It will send complete weather reports by radio to Europe and the Americas. This information will be used by airports, harbor authorities, weather bureaus, and by ships and planes at sea. The patrol will also send out radio signals to help keep transoceanic planes on their courses, and will do rescue work when a ship or a plane is in trouble.

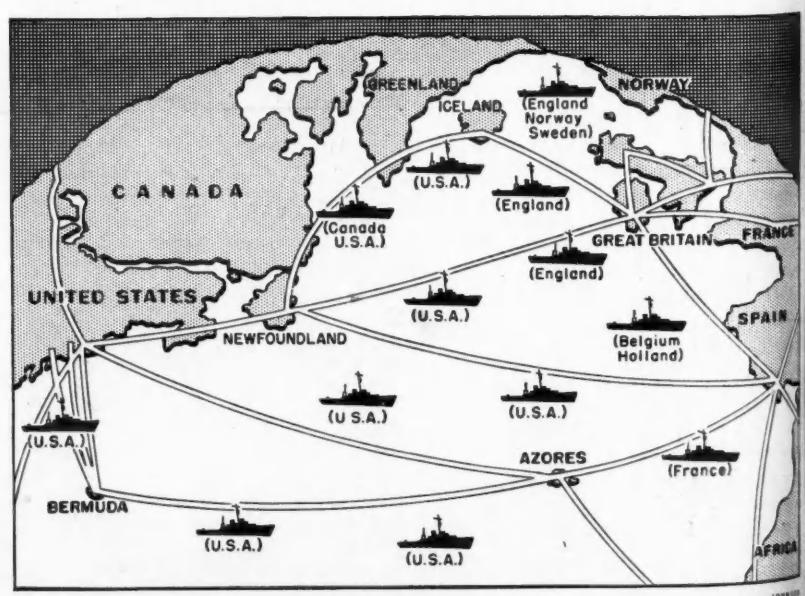
The United States weather stations will be maintained by the Coast Guard. Three ships are to be assigned to each station. One vessel and its men will be on duty at sea for 21 days. Then it will return to port for six weeks. By rotating in this way the ships can be kept in good condition, and the men will not grow tired of life on the Atlantic.

New Nazi Menace?

A good many Americans are worried about the German scientists who are in this country working on rockets and other weapons for the Army. After all, they say, "these are the men who gave the Nazis their deadliest weapons. What is to keep them from serving as spies while they are here, or trying to spread Nazi ideas among the American people? Aren't they more of a threat than a help to us?"

Those who disagree with this point of view reply as follows: "The German scientists are closely watched and have little chance to do anything subversive. Their past records were thoroughly investigated before they were permitted to come to this country."

"If the United Nations succeeds in working out a real disarmament plan—one which calls for inspection of every country's weapons—the German



FOR SAFER TRAVEL. The location of 13 ships of the international weather patrol along the sea and air routes of the North Atlantic is shown on map.

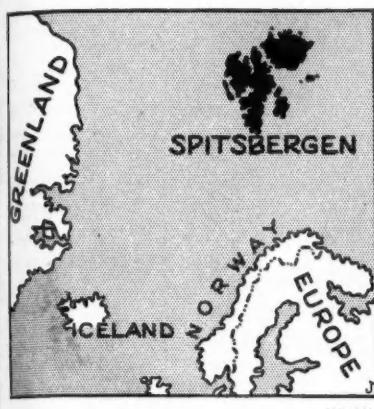
scientists here cannot possibly do us any harm. If the UN fails to guarantee world peace, these Germans may furnish valuable help to American scientists in developing protective weapons for our nation."

Spitsbergen Dispute

Russia's recent demand for military outposts in Norway's arctic islands of Spitsbergen is only one incident in a long series of disagreements about those islands. During the past few years, however, the main cause of disagreement has changed.

Earlier contests over the possession of Spitsbergen, which Norway finally won, arose because of the rich coal deposits there. The Soviet Union still owns some of the coal mines.

More recently, Russia has become interested in the island group for military reasons. Spitsbergen lies along the North Pole air route between Soviet territory and America. Beginning in 1944, Russia has several times urged that Norway allow Soviet military



bases to be placed there. Such requests have always been met by strong objections from Norway.

The United States government has shown concern over Russia's efforts to put outposts in Spitsbergen, for those islands are almost as near to our northeastern states as is California. This feeling of our government can be compared with the worry of Soviet officials when we tried to keep military bases in Iceland after the war.

Judges and Politics

Federal judges are supposed to be chosen on the basis of their ability, fair-mindedness, and legal experience. Actually, judgeships are more often than not treated as "political plums" and handed out as rewards for party loyalty.

The Constitution gives the President the power to appoint federal judges with the approval of the Senate. When the President and a majority of the senators belong to the same party, they usually name political colleagues to the federal courts.

The party which is out of power always complains about this practice. When President Roosevelt went to the White House, the Democrats were indignant about the number of Republican judges then on the bench. Now the GOP leaders say there are too many Democratic judges, and thus they insist that Republicans should be appointed to the courts every time a vacancy occurs.

Many people think the system should be revised so that our federal judges

are appointed solely on the basis of merit, not politics. They feel that the courts would be better if such action were taken.

Stanley and Livingstone

Take a famous missionary-explorer lost in the unknown depths of Africa. Add one enterprising newspaper reporter, bent on finding him, and you have the ingredients for a top-notch adventure story.

This story was headline news in the 1870's when Henry Stanley went to Africa in search of David Livingstone. It made a popular motion picture in 1939, when Twentieth Century-Fox filmed it under the title *Stanley and Livingstone*.

Now movie-goers have a second chance to see Livingstone at work among the natives of Africa and Stanley on his way to find him. The picture, featuring Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly, Richard Greene, Walter Brennan, and Charles Coburn, is being re-issued. Look for it at your neighborhood theater.

Which Way to Peace?

Can we count on the atomic bomb to protect our security or should we try instead to build a strong United Nations? According to the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver, two-thirds of the American people think we should pin our hopes on the UN. Only about 25 per cent believe bigger and better bombs will help to keep the peace.

But which course is the United States actually taking? Opinion is more evenly divided on this question. Thirty-five per cent feel that we are doing our best to strengthen the UN. Thirty-four per cent see us concentrating on the production of atomic weapons. Eighteen per cent think our government is trying to do both at once—build up the UN and at the same time keep ahead in atomic warfare.

Science Notes

Engineer Percy Thomas thinks we can harness the wind as a source of electric power. He has just finished the designs for a huge wind-power generator which is to be mounted on a steel tower almost as tall as the 555-foot Washington monument.



20TH CENTURY-FOX
STANLEY AND LIVINGSTONE, a dramatic movie based on explorations in Africa, has been revived. This film, featuring Spencer Tracy, Nancy Kelly, and Charles Coburn, is of exceptional quality.

Thomas says that a dozen or more "windmills" of this type scattered over an area of several states could furnish a steady stream of power at low cost. His theory is that high winds at some points usually balance low winds at others. Much smaller wind generators have been used successfully on isolated farms for several years.

★ ★ ★

It is reported that a new light-weight aluminum electrical wire, insulated with glass and synthetic rubber, saves 200 pounds of weight in the B-36 bomber. This gives us an idea of the tremendous amount of electrical wire used in such planes.

★ ★ ★

Many a movie patron, irritated by the rustle of paper from the next seat, has longed for silent popcorn bags. Now science offers just that. Inventors have come forward with a bag made of "rustleproof" paper. This bag also has weak seams, which means that anyone who tries to inflate it and explode it will get only a soft "whoosh" in return for his efforts.

★ ★ ★

The world's first prefabricated movie theater has been erected and is now doing business. It was designed and manufactured in a California factory. Later the factory hopes to produce large numbers of the structures.

★ ★ ★

UN in Action

THE possibility of making an inventory of the world's resources—its human as well as its material resources—is being discussed by a subcommittee of the United Nations. This group, a division of the Economic and Social Council, is known as the Economic and Employment Commission.

The commission was organized to foster better economic conditions in all nations, and to help eliminate depressions. An inventory is suggested as a way to accomplish these goals.

In arguing for this proposal, the United States delegate to the commission said, "Before we can plan with intelligence, we need to draw up a balance sheet which will show us what the world possesses in human skills, minerals, forests, factories, and agricultural lands—and where they are."

This delegate, Dr. Isador Lubin, who has compiled statistics of many kinds for our government, cites China as an example. China, he says, does not know how much coal, oil, and other resources she has. If the UN is to help raise Chinese standards of living, it must know these things. Then, he goes on, the UN must also know how long it will take to train the Chinese to use modern equipment.

In some areas of South America, Dr. Lubin points out, people suffer from malaria and other diseases that sap their energy. Before these sections can be modernized, he says, we must have good public health programs.

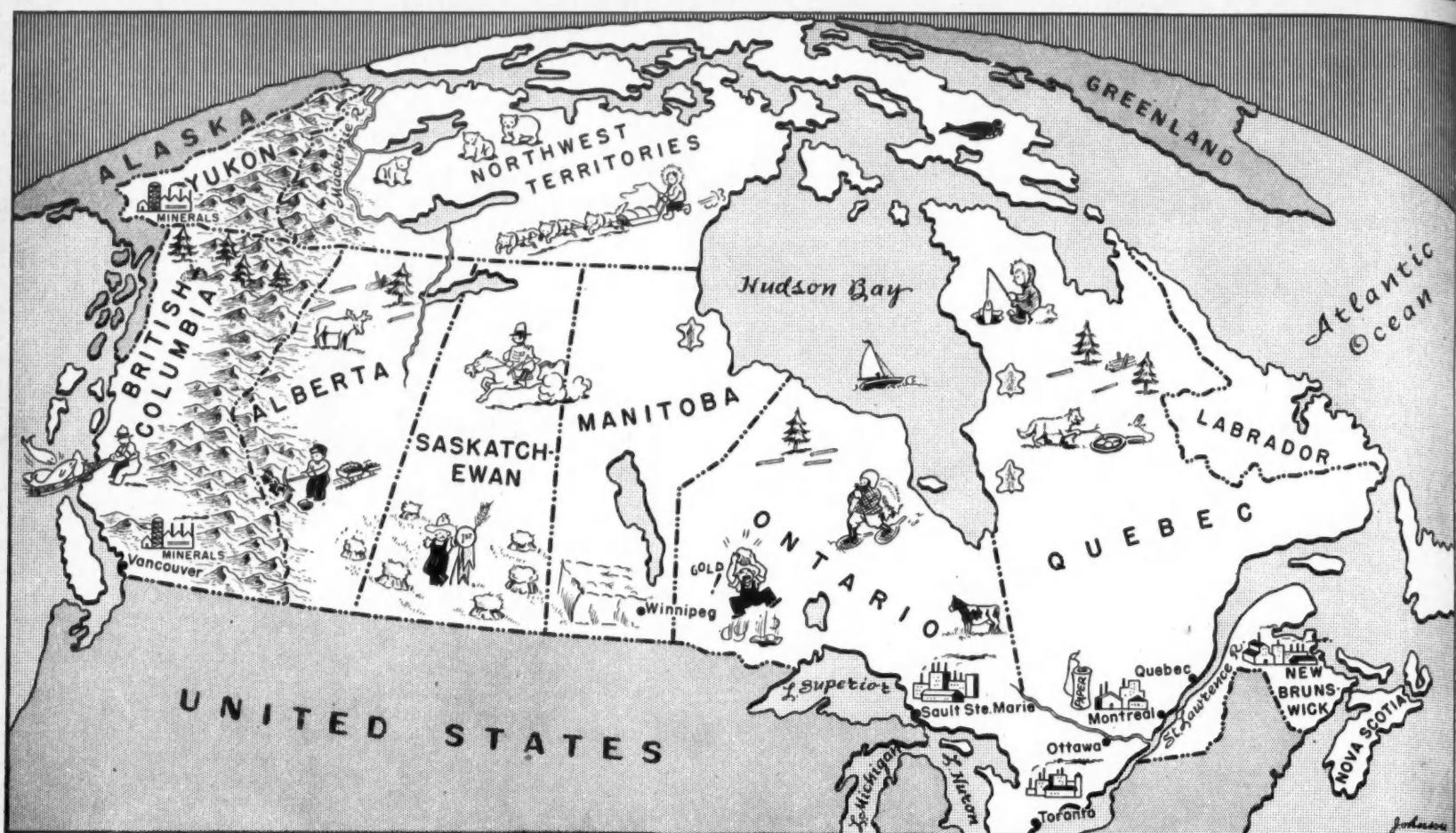
Objections are made to the idea of an inventory. Some nations, it is said, will not want others to know what resources they have. Then, too, it will take a long time to collect the information; perhaps the time and energy could be better used in other ways.

Delegates from the 15 nations on the Economic and Employment Commission are now discussing this and other plans at Lake Success, New York. They are concerned chiefly with improving economic conditions in the undeveloped areas of the world. The present meeting will last through February 28. Then the commission will submit its final suggestions to the Economic and Social Council, which will study the proposals before taking them to the General Assembly.



UNITED AIR LINES

AIR HOSTESSES. Because their employers—a French and an American airline—have agreed to coordinate their schedules and provide service covering the United States and 51 foreign countries, these hostesses are exchanging lessons in French and English.



CANADA—her provinces and her products

Canada's Future

(Concluded from page 1)

outstanding industrial importance.

Spurred on by the need for war materials, Canada built hundreds of new factories and greatly increased the output of her mines and forests. From her ports, ships steamed to all parts of the world, carrying weapons, food, and raw materials.

Today only the United States, Britain, and Russia have more factories than Canada. Her farms are still very valuable, but two-thirds of her people now work in factories.

With her many new industries, Canada can produce anything a modern nation needs. She is turning out large quantities of steel, aluminum, chemicals, fertilizers, factory machinery, automobiles, and electrical goods.

Moreover, she has the resources with which to continue her forward march. In size, she is the third largest nation in the world. Only Russia and Greater China are larger. Continental United States is smaller than Canada by half a million square miles—an area equal to the states of California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho.

Rich Minerals

Within her vast space, Canada has rich and varied minerals. Again comparing her with other countries, she has a greater abundance of resources than any other nation except the United States and Russia.

Many of her mines and forests have never been touched, and others have only begun to yield their wealth. This is especially true of the resources in northern Canada. During the war, the Canadians began to develop that area seriously for the first time. The airplane and better land transportation are expected to speed the settlement of the north.

Canada may discover that she has supplies of minerals which she does not know about today. Already she

is the world's greatest producer of nickel, asbestos, radium, and platinum. In addition, she has plentiful supplies of coal, iron, lead, zinc, silver, gold, and petroleum.

No other nation sells so much wheat abroad as Canada does. She turns out large quantities of newsprint, fur, cattle, and lumber. Her fishing industry is one of the largest in the world. To provide power for her factories, she can choose between the coal from her mines and the electricity which can be produced by the waters of her rushing rivers.

Canada's farms are among the world's best, and there is still ample room for more farmers. The good farm land which has never been occupied and cultivated is larger in area than our states of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa combined.

About the only thing that Canada really needs is more people. Her population of 12,000,000 is smaller than the population of the state of New York, and she could easily take care of a much larger number of people. There is room for them, and work for them to do. Whether Canada will encourage Europeans to settle in her territory remains to be seen.

Despite her favorable situation, Canada also faces some serious problems. For one thing, the very fact that she built so many factories during the war may cause her some trouble in the future. These factories are able to produce a great deal more than the country's small population can buy. So Canada must find foreign customers for her products, or many of the factories will have to close down, causing workers to lose their jobs.

Thus far Canada is doing a good job of selling her products to foreign lands. Last year ships carried more goods away from her ports than during any other peacetime year in her history. After foreign countries have recovered from the war and do not need to buy so much from the outside, Canada will have to work harder to sell industrial goods to them.

Still another problem which troubles our northern neighbor from time to time is the way in which its population is divided among French and British Canadians. These two groups have different customs and religions, and sometimes they quarrel with one another. Their conflicts have made it very difficult at times for the nation to achieve unity.

Probably the greatest fear of the Canadians today is that their country may serve as a battleground in a future war between Russia and the United States. Since the Arctic route is the shortest distance between these two powerful nations, Canada would be in a tragic position if they should clash.

Arctic Military Tests

Since the end of the recent world conflict, American military forces have been testing their equipment and methods of war in the extremely cold northern regions of Alaska and Canada. The Canadian leaders have cooperated with us in this "defense" project, but many people in that country are worried over such war preparations. They are urging their government to work in every way it can to promote peaceful relations between Russia and the United States. This is probably the reason why the Canadian delegates to the UN have recently played a leading role in the effort to get the Soviet and American leaders to compromise their differences on an atomic-control plan.

Whatever the future may bring, it is fairly certain that Canada and the United States will work closely together. They have done so for many years, and there has been a minimum of friction between them. The people of the two countries have moved freely across the border.

People from the United States who visit in Canada find that it greatly resembles our own country. Beginning in the East, the Atlantic region of Canada, with its rugged coast, its fishing villages, and its hilly, rocky

land, is similar to our northern New England. This part of the country includes the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The people there engage chiefly in fishing, lumbering, and farming.

Moving westward from the Atlantic region, the traveler comes to a rich industrial and farming area, which includes Canada's largest cities and biggest factories. The factory centers are similar to the American cities of Buffalo and Detroit. The farms are like those which are found in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

This region takes in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and contains more than half of the nation's entire population. The majority of the people in Ontario came originally from England, and the majority in Quebec came from France. The customs in Quebec are much the same as those in France, and most of the people speak French.

Continuing westward, the visitor reaches Canada's great central plain, which is an extension of the wheat and corn regions of the United States. Here Canada grows her great crops of grain. The three prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta are known the world over for their wheat and other grains.

Then come the lofty Canadian Rockies, which are part of the chain of mountains which extends through the western section of our country. The scenery here is much the same as it is in the Rocky Mountain region of the United States.

Finally, the traveler comes to the Pacific Coast province of British Columbia. Along the coast, people engage in salmon fishing, shipping, and lumbering, just as they do in our states of Washington and Oregon. The interior of British Columbia is one of the most rugged areas of the world, with towering mountains and great forest areas. The port of Vancouver, in this province, handles shipping to and from the Far East.

Readers Say—

Why doesn't the federal government control education instead of leaving it to the separate states? At the outset in America, education was a concern of the individual families. Then it became the concern of the community, and later of the state. I think it is now time for the federal government to take over.

Under national control our schools would have a standard term, a uniform wage for teachers, and equality in equipment and books.

HARDY CARROLL,
Guilford, North Carolina.

Having been interested in your articles on Russia, and having heard a talk on the United Nations by a delegate to the San Francisco Conference, I should like to pass on a story the speaker told.

She said that in San Francisco she had tried to convince a young Russian that we are not an aggressor nation. In answer, the Russian confronted her with this question: "What proof have we that you are not an aggressor nation? According to your past history a handful of Europeans crossed the Atlantic Ocean and pushed the Indians back from the Atlantic to the Pacific. What proof have we that you will stop at the Pacific?"

JOAN BUSHNELL,
Norwich, Connecticut.

I think if the new Congress decides to cut appropriations for overseas relief and reconstruction, it will be making a great mistake. People in other countries will become discouraged and dissatisfied, and will eventually believe we have deserted them. In their discouragement they might turn to another Hitler, and the outcome would be a third world war. Are we going to cut expenses at the price of another war? I hope not.

JOAN NEIDERHOFFER,
Long Branch, New Jersey.

If the Antarctic is as valuable as some believe it to be, I think the explorations there may be the beginning of a great controversy among nations. Each country will want the deposits of uranium which are said to lie in the polar continent. There is going to be quite a race for the land, and as a result nations will become suspicious of one another. Some international committee should be chosen to work out a compromise.

FRANK MORSE,
Akron, Ohio.

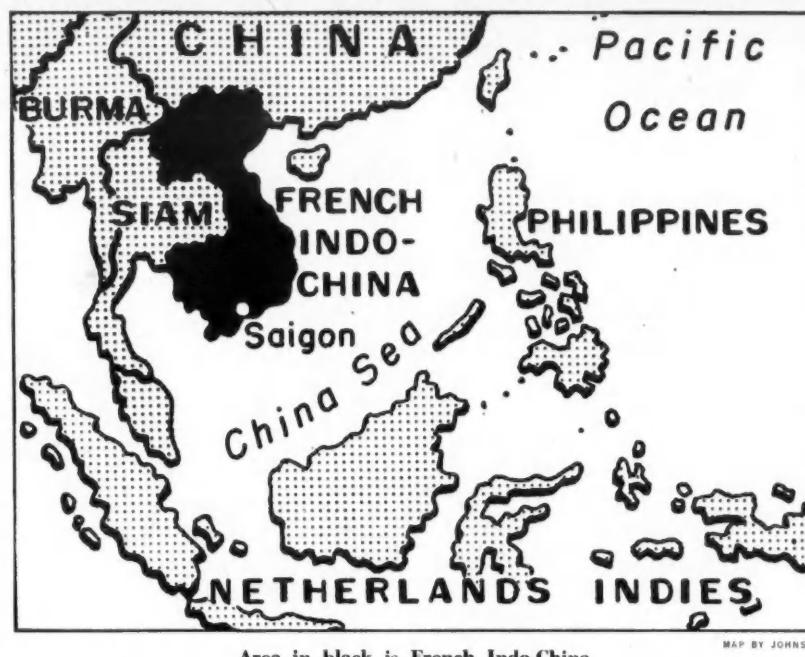
I am sure Jewell Siggins and Sam Keasby, who wrote to this column, enjoy freedom of speech. This freedom makes it possible for them to say that it is not democratic to criticize communism. I should like to ask whether they would have the same freedom if communism were in power? I think they would not. As a veteran of World War II, I should hate to see the day when communism got a footing in this country.

MARK JACOBS, JR.,
Sitka, Alaska.

I disagree with Mary Lou McWilliams, who thinks our population is "in danger" of becoming stationary. It is still growing, but even if it were not there would be no "danger." Military strength and prosperity are not dependent on population. If they were, India and China would be rich and would rule the world instead of being poor, weak, undeveloped nations.

All this means we should be very careful not to admit too many immigrants, and they should be of the highest type.

HENRY E. CRYDER,
Minoqua, Illinois.



Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

TO be a good and successful reporter for a newspaper, a person must learn to be as accurate as possible; that is, he must describe things as they actually happened. He must not "color" the news or otherwise distort it so as to make it fit in with his own views and preferences.

The top-flight reporters for the best of our newspapers, for example, are those who can disregard their personal feelings and write up the stories with complete impartiality. Even the best professional reporter occasionally slips and allows his own likes and dislikes to influence his stories, but he does it less often than the average newswriter.

This lesson should be learned by all, whether they earn their living by reporting the news or not. We are all reporters—reporters for ourselves and for others. We must learn to see things as they actually are, not as we should like them to be. We must learn to accept, not reject, those facts which do not please us or which do not strengthen our own case. By omitting certain facts, we may present a totally inaccurate picture.

It is important that we learn to be good reporters from the personal standpoint. If we cannot describe an event or a conversation exactly as it happened, without twisting it or interpreting it to further our own interests, we shall be regarded as unreliable and our word will be discounted.



But it is in the matter of reporting for ourselves that we must be honest and accurate if we are to fulfill our duties as citizens. It is an easy thing to acquire the mental habit of deceiving ourselves and falsifying in our own minds facts and ideas which we know to be convincing but do not fit in with our prejudices. We cannot become straight thinkers and useful citizens unless we determine to be reliable reporters concerning what we read, see, and hear.

Even though Congress has been in session less than a month, a large number of bills have already been proposed by the senators and representatives. During five days recently, some 500 measures were introduced.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. The building has been there for a decade. (a) 5 years (b) 10 years (c) 25 years (d) 50 years.

2. He was mortified. (a) humiliated (b) frightened (c) challenged (d) discouraged.

3. A credulous person is: (a) without credit (b) always complaining (c) too ready to believe (d) well-liked.

4. If a person is perturbed about something, he is: (a) disturbed (b) happy (c) well-informed (d) sorrowful.

5. The speaker predicted dire consequences if this policy should be carried out. (a) wonderful (b) terrible (c) important (d) ridiculous.

6. A fathom is: (a) 3 feet (b) 6 feet (c) 12 feet (d) 20 feet.

7. A chronic illness is: (a) painful and acute (b) of long duration (c) incurable but painless (d) contagious (e) fatal.



Careers for Tomorrow -- The Bookkeeper

AMERICAN industry is now operating at almost twice the rate of speed and output that it did before the war. If that situation continues, there will be greatly increased opportunities for bookkeepers and accountants.

Bookkeepers vary greatly in experience, training, and earning power. There are many in the field who have studied only six months or a year, and they are able to handle only routine and relatively simple recordings.

At the other end of the scale we find the certified public accountant, the C. P. A., who occupies a position of specialization, skill, and responsibility equal to that of a lawyer, and whose earnings are higher than those of many lawyers.

The advanced accountant often serves as a business adviser. He understands all the financial operations of the company for which he works. He decides upon the systems of bookkeeping which shall be used, analyzes the records, audits the books, prepares tax returns, and performs all kinds of complex operations.

Such accountants are in a minority. Most bookkeepers are equipped to perform only routine tasks. They carry out the specific work outlined and planned by the accountants.

The majority of ordinary bookkeepers today are earning somewhere between \$140 and \$175 a month. Some get more than these amounts, and some get less, but the earnings of most people in the field are within this range.

Accountants who are taking their first positions now start out at about \$125 to \$150 a month. The majority of qualified C. P. A.'s with long experience make between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year.

In this field, like most others, the poorly trained receive low earnings and the highly skilled have good incomes. One advantage of the work is that the bookkeeper or accountant comes to



BOOKKEEPERS and accountants are now in great demand

know the inside workings of the business in which he is employed. He is, therefore, in line for administrative positions.

A student who hopes to become an accountant should take the business courses offered in his school. He should concentrate on mathematics, business law, and the specialized courses in accountancy. If he finds that he is only fair in these courses,

he should give up the thought of accountancy as a career.

One who enters this field should be absolutely honest, thoroughly reliable, and able to keep business secrets to himself. Character is indispensable to success.

A high school education, plus a simple course in bookkeeping, is the minimum requirement for anyone wishing to enter this field. In college, one should take such courses as money and banking, auditing, commercial law, statistics, cost accounting, and so on. In concentrating on these commercial subjects, however, one should not neglect his general education.

One of the best books on this subject is "Accountancy as a Career," by Lawrence W. Scudder, New York: Funk and Wagnalls.

Outside Reading

Government Costs

"Barriers to a Smaller Budget," *United States News*, November 22, 1946. Why our federal government is a big, expensive business.

"Budget Fancies and Facts," by Ernest Lindley, *Newsweek*, December 2, 1946. Figures on government expenditures.

Canada

"Canada As a World Power," by Akeley Mitchell, *American Mercury*, July 1946. Description of the Canadian land, people, and resources.

"Why It's Easy To Get Rich in Canada," by Hawthorne Daniel, *American*, December 1946. Canada's vast opportunities for expansion and development.

"Citizenship Law Lifts Unity Hopes in Canada," *World Report*, January 14, 1947. Effects of the new Canadian citizenship.

Canada

1. How much is the federal government spending during the present fiscal year, and how much is it collecting in taxes?

2. What are five of the larger items of government expense?

3. Which item is expected to be cut the most next year?

4. Briefly state the arguments for and against cutting down on our financial assistance to other countries.

5. What is meant by the term "fiscal year"?

6. Explain the disagreement between President Truman and many members of Congress on the question of how much the government should spend next year. How do they differ on the issue of taxes?

Discussion

1. Without having any more facts than you now possess, are you inclined to feel that President Truman is or is not on sounder ground than his opponents in their dispute over how much the government should spend next year?

2. Do you think that your answer to the above question was colored by the fact that you are a Republican or Democrat; in other words, by your party preference?

3. Do you agree with the President or his opponents on the question of whether taxes should be lowered?

Canada

1. How has the status of Canadians been recently changed? Is this change expected to affect their relations with Britain?

2. Why have Canadian industries expanded so greatly in the last 10 years?

3. How does Canada compare with other nations in the number of factories she has, in the size of her territory, and in the amount of wheat she exports?

4. Does Canada have poor, fair, or rich resources?

5. What division among her people has made it difficult at times to maintain national unity?

6. How might Canada's geographical location prove to be a disadvantage in case of another war?

Discussion

1. Why do you think that the people of Canada and the United States have had so much more harmonious relations than most neighboring countries in Europe?

2. If you lived in Canada, do you think you would share the fear of those people there who fear what may happen to their country in case of a future war between Russia and the United States?

Miscellaneous

1. To what extent does politics enter into the appointment of federal judges?

2. How much progress has been made in Indo-China under French rule?

3. Briefly describe the plan which will probably be adopted to unify the armed forces.

4. Is our foreign policy more or less of a political issue today than it was before the war?

5. How serious is the divorce problem in this country?

6. Where is Spitsbergen and why has it recently come into the news?

7. What kind of new Atlantic patrol system is being established to obtain daily weather information for ships and planes?

Pronunciations

Sault Ste. Marie—sue saint mah re'

Sarong—sah rong'

Mekong—mäk kóng

Laotian—lau' shun (au pronounced ou in out)

Hanoi—hah noy'

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) 10 years; 2. (a) humiliated;

3. (c) too ready to believe; 4. (a) disturbed;

5. (b) terrible; 6. (b) 6 feet;

7. (b) of long duration.

Historical Backgrounds -- by David S. Muzzey

THE average American 150 years ago did practically no traveling. A long journey in those days was a rugged experience. Except for those who migrated to the frontiers, there were few Americans in 1800 who had ever traveled more than 20 miles from their homes.

Roads were few in number and were usually deep with mud during bad weather. In many parts of the country it was possible to travel only by horseback. Justices of the Supreme Court traveled in this way when they "rode circuit" to hear cases in distant courts.

Travel by stagecoach was both slow



THE CONESTOGA WAGON, or prairie schooner, carried thousands of settlers across the plains to open up the West.

and uncomfortable. The roads were bumpy, and the early stagecoaches had no springs. The 90-mile journey by stagecoach from New York to Philadelphia required two full days. It sometimes took a week to cover the distance between New York and Boston.

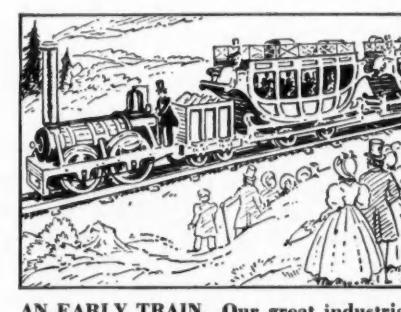
Even this slow travel by stagecoach was possible only where there were

roads. Private companies sometimes built roads between towns and charged a toll to everyone who traveled over them. Every few miles along the way there were long poles with sharp spikes which forced travelers to turn off the road and pay their tolls. For this reason the old toll roads were known as "turnpikes." In later years the state and national governments built free public highways to eliminate this inconvenience and facilitate travel.

During the first half of the 19th century, many canals were dug, for water transportation was much cheaper than overland travel. One of the most important of these early water highways was the 360-mile Erie Canal built in 1825 to connect Lake Erie with the Hudson River. It reduced the cost of transporting freight between Buffalo and Albany from \$100 to \$5 per ton, and it cut the time from 20 to 8 days.

The coming of the railroad in the 1830's opened up a new era in American transportation. The first American locomotive, the *Tom Thumb*, puffed along at only 4 miles an hour in its first test, but within a few years other trains reached the dizzy speed of 30 miles per hour. Against the opposition of the canal men and the turnpike owners, railroads spread rapidly throughout the country. By 1860 there were 30,000 miles of track in the United States.

The climax of railroad building came in 1869 when the first transcontinental road was completed. In a colorful ceremony near the Great Salt Lake in Utah, a spike of California gold was



AN EARLY TRAIN. Our great industrial development would not have been possible without rail transportation.

been a strong force promoting the growth of national unity.

When these early railroads were built, the government made land grants worth millions of dollars to the railway companies in order to encourage the construction of the lines. The companies, in return, agreed to carry passengers, freight, and mail for the government at reduced rates. During the recent war, for example, men and women in uniform were given "furlough rates" which were much lower than the fares paid by civilian passengers. The railroads now feel that they have repaid their debt to the government.